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sometimes decimate the sheep-folds and poultry yards. A great number of fresh-water fishes die owing to the development of Myxosporidia in their tissues, a cause of destruction of these animals in our fish ponds which is still generally ignored. Finally, says the author in the preface, the epidemic invasion of the Microsporidia in silk-raising establishments gave rise to the disease called *pebrine*, which for twenty years has nearly ruined the silk industry throughout the world, and cost France alone more than a millard francs.

Professor Balbiani adds that while MM. Aimé, Schneider and Bütschli have recently enriched the history of the Gregarines and Coccidia, his own contributions relate chiefly to the Myxosporidia and Microsporidia.

After describing the Sarcosporidia, or tubular Sporozoa, he discusses their systematic position, acknowledging the difficulty of correctly classifying them, but following Leuckart in regarding them as animal rather than vegetable. These organisms live as tubular masses of ovoid organisms buried in the muscle of the pig, Otaria, etc., and Balbiani believes that they begin by living on the surface of their host.

The Myxosporidia, or Sporozoa of fish, are treated in an interesting way, with a number of original sketches.

In the chapters on the Psorosperms of articulates (Microsporidia) we have an interesting historical sketch of the discovery of these parasites, which were first detected in 1853, by Leydig in *Coccus hesperidum*, and afterwards in spiders, a bee, a crane-fly and in Daphnia. These he regarded as vegetables, but as belonging with the Psorosperms. Here belongs the organism which causes pebrine, and which Pasteur regards as *organites*, but neither animal or vegetable. This view Balbiani combats with considerable feeling and at considerable length, fortifying his position with sketches, maintaining that they are animal and belong with the Sporozoa.

REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY OF CANADA FOR 1880-'81-'82.—We have but just received this report, which bears date of 1883. With it comes a catalogue of Canadian plants, Part I, Polypetalæ, by John Macoun, forming a volume of 192 pages, and containing interesting notes on the occurrence and distribution of the species. We should have expected to find more detailed notes on the Labrador species than we do.

The geological report itself being for a period extending through three years, cannot here well be analyzed. Dr. G. M. Dawson makes a preliminary report on the geology of the Bow and Belly River region, Northwest Terr., with special reference to the coal deposits; Dr. R. Bell reports on the geology of the basin of Moose river and adjacent country, and on the geology of the Lake of the Woods and region adjoining. The most elaborate

reports are those of Mr. R. W. Ells on Northern and Eastern New Brunswick and the north side of the Bay of Chaleurs, as well as the Gaspé peninsula, illustrated by several folding maps. Artotypes and lithographic plates illustrate the scenery.

Besides his introductory reports the director of the survey, Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn, furnishes a chapter entitled: "Geological nomenclature and the coloring and notation of geological maps," which will attract attention.

#### RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

*Ashburner, C. A.*—First report of progress in the Anthracite coal region. The geology of the Panther Creek basin. Second Geol. Surv. Pa. Harrisburg, 1883. From the author.

*Riley, C. V., Packard, A. S., Thomas, C.*—Third report of the United States Entomological Commission. Washington, 1883. From the commission.

*Chapman, H. C.*—History of the discovery of the circulation of the blood. Phila., Blakiston & Co., 1884. From the author.

*Gill, Th.*—The principles of zoögeography. A presidential address delivered at the Biological Soc. of Washington, Jan. 19, 1883. From the author.

*Dollo, M. L.*—Première note sur les Crocodiliens de Bernissart. Ext. du Bull. du Mus. Roy. d'Hist. Nat. de Belg., 1883. From the author.

—Note sur la présence du *Gastornis edwardsii* Lemoine, dans l'assise inférieure de l'étage Landenien a Mesvin, près Mons. Ext. idem. From the author.

*Curtis, J. S.*—Abstract of report on the silver-lead deposits of Eureka, Nevada. Ext. Ann. Rep. Director U. S. Geol. Surv. From the author.

*Hyatt, A.*—Genera of fossil Cephalopods. Ext. Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., 1883. From the author.

*Whitehouse, Cope.*—The myth of Fingal's cave. From the author.

*Clevenger, S. V.*—Clinical and pathological reports of cases of insanity. Rep. from the Chicago Med. Jour. and Exam., 1884.

—Paretic dementia in females, with report of a case. Rep. from the Alienist and Neurologist, 1884. Both from the author.

*Campbell, J. L., and Ruffner, W. H.*—A physical survey in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, along the line of the Georgia Pacific Railway. New York, E. F. Weeks, 1883. From W. H. Ruffner.

*Christy, R. M.*—On the methodic habits of insects visiting flowers. Ext. Linn. Soc. Jour., 1883. From the author.

*Randolph, N. A.*—A study of the distribution of gluten within the wheat grain. Ext. Proc. Nat. Sci. Phil., 1883.

—A note on the fæces of starch-fed insects. Ext. Trans. College Physicians of Phila., 1883. Both from the author.

*Roussel, A. E., and Randolph, N. A.*—An examination of the fæces of twenty persons receiving inunctions of cod-liver oil. From the authors.

*Williston, S. W.*—On the North American Asilidæ, with a new genus of Syrphidæ. Ext. Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 1883. From the author.

*Wilder, B. G.*—Cartwright lectures on methods of studying the brain. Lecture No. 1. Ext. N. Y. Med. Jour., Feb. 9, 1884. From the author.

*Sewall, H.*—Experiments upon the ears of fishes with reference to the function of equilibrium. Ext. Jour. of Physiology, 1883. From the author.

*Ryder, J. A.*—Rearing oysters from artificially-fertilized eggs, together with notes on pond culture, etc. Ext. Bull. Fish Commission, Vol. III, 1883. From the author.

*Worthen, W. A., St. John, O., Miller, S. A.*—Geological survey of Illinois. Vol. VII. Geology and palæontology. Boston, 1883. From the authors.

*Dobson, G. E.*—A monograph of the Insectivora, systematic and anatomical. Part I and II. London, J. Van Voorst, 1883. From the author.